## Statistical release

# Retail trade sales (Preliminary) 

## October 2015

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## Sales at constant 2012 prices: results for October 2015

Table A - Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices

|  | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year-on-year \% change, unadjusted | 1,9 | 3,8 | 3,3 | 4,0 | 3,0 | 3,3 |
| Month-on-month \% change, seasonally adjusted | $-0,2$ | 0,3 | 0,2 | 1,9 | $-1,7$ | 0,2 |
| 3-month \% change, seasonally adjusted 1/ | 0,8 | 0,4 | 0,1 | 1,0 | 1,0 | 1,0 |

1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.
Measured in real terms (constant 2012 prices), retail trade sales increased by 3,3\% year-on-year in October 2015. The highest positive annual growth rates were recorded for:

- retailers in pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (8,5\%);
- all 'other' retailers ( $6,0 \%$ ); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,8\%) - see Table 5.

The main contributors to the $3,3 \%$ increase were general dealers (contributing 1,3 percentage points) and retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (contributing 1,0 percentage point) - see Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by $0,2 \%$ month-on-month in October 2015. This followed month-onmonth changes of $-1,7 \%$ in September 2015 and $1,9 \%$ in August 2015.

In the three months ended October 2015, seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 1,0\% compared with the previous three months.

Table B - Retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices for the latest three months by type of retailer

| Type of retailer | Aug - Oct 2014 <br> (R million) | Weight | Aug - Oct $2015$ <br> (R million) | \% change between Aug - Oct 2014 and Aug - Oct 2015 | Contribution (\% points) to the total \% change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| General dealers | 71925 | 39,8 | 74847 | 4,1 | 1,6 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 14871 | 8,2 | 15081 | 1,4 | 0,1 |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 12214 | 6,8 | 12775 | 4,6 | 0,3 |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods | 34554 | 19,1 | 36329 | 5,1 | 1,0 |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment | 10215 | 5,7 | 9594 | -6,1 | -0,3 |
| Hardware, paint and glass | 14529 | 8,0 | 14697 | 1,2 | 0,1 |
| All other retailers | 22233 | 12,3 | 23398 | 5,2 | 0,6 |
| Total | 180541 | 100,0 | 186721 | 3,4 | 3,4 |

Retail trade sales increased by $3,4 \%$ in the three months ended October 2015 compared with the three months ended October 2014. The main contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (4,1\% and contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (5,1\% and contributing 1,0 percentage point) - see Table B.

Figure 1 - Retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices


Figure 2 - Retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices: year-on-year percentage change


## Sales at current prices: results for October 2015

Table C-Key growth rates in retail trade sales at current prices

|  | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year-on-year \% change, unadjusted | 6,3 | 7,9 | 7,2 | 7,9 | 6,9 | 7,3 |
| Month-on-month \% change, seasonally adjusted | $-0,2$ | 1,0 | 0,8 | 1,1 | $-0,3$ | 0,4 |
| 3-month \% change, seasonally adjusted 1/ | 1,8 | 1,5 | 1,2 | 2,0 | 2,0 | 1,9 |

1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Table D - Retail trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of retailer

| Type of retailer | Aug - Oct 2014 <br> (R million) | Weight | Aug - Oct 2015 <br> (R million) | \% change between Aug - Oct 2014 and <br> Aug - Oct 2015 | Contribution (\% points) to the total \% change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| General dealers | 80650 | 40,5 | 87366 | 8,3 | 3,4 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 16935 | 8,5 | 18158 | 7,2 | 0,6 |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 13404 | 6,7 | 14736 | 9,9 | 0,7 |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods | 37851 | 19,0 | 41478 | 9,6 | 1,8 |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment | 10339 | 5,2 | 9720 | -6,0 | -0,3 |
| Hardware, paint and glass | 16151 | 8,1 | 16715 | 3,5 | 0,3 |
| All other retailers | 23945 | 12,0 | 25746 | 7,5 | 0,9 |
| Total | 199274 | 100,0 | 213918 | 7,3 | 7,3 |

## PJ Lehohla <br> Statistician-General

Tables
Table 1 - Retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices ( R million)

| Month | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5} \mathbf{1 /}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jan | 47614 | 47972 | 51309 | 53675 | 54861 | 57546 | 58610 |
| Feb | 46476 | 47016 | 49903 | 53306 | 55260 | 56374 | 58463 |
| Mar | 48633 | 50348 | 52920 | 56658 | 58190 | 58491 | 60140 |
| Apr | 47507 | 49502 | 54507 | 55468 | 56563 | 57845 | 59969 |
| May | 48790 | 51116 | 52002 | 55356 | 58791 | 60451 | 61584 |
| Jun | 47562 | 51455 | 52761 | 57494 | 58374 | 57894 | 60087 |
| Jul | 48285 | 52479 | 54091 | 55859 | 57494 | 58954 | 60910 |
| Aug | 47450 | 49921 | 53623 | 57388 | 59212 | 60249 | 62629 |
| Sep | 48297 | 51304 | 55298 | 58006 | 57974 | 59217 | 61017 |
| Oct | 49782 | 53096 | 57330 | 58267 | 59163 | 61075 | 63075 |
| Nov | 51061 | 55466 | 59491 | 61819 | 64443 | 65597 |  |
| Dec | 67888 | 73726 | 80076 | 81322 | 82966 | 84531 |  |
| Total | 599345 | $\mathbf{6 3 3 4 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{6 7 3} 311$ | $\mathbf{7 0 4 6 1 8}$ | $\mathbf{7 2 3 2 9 1}$ | $\mathbf{7 3 8 2 2 4}$ |  |

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.
Table 2 - Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices

| Month | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5}$ <br> year-to-date |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jan | 0,8 | 7,0 | $\mathbf{4 , 6}$ | 2,2 | 4,9 | 1,8 | $\mathbf{1 , 8}$ |
| Feb | 1,2 | 6,1 | 6,8 | 3,7 | 2,0 | 3,7 | 2,8 |
| Mar | 3,5 | 5,1 | 7,1 | 2,7 | 0,5 | 2,8 | 2,8 |
| Apr | 4,2 | 10,1 | 1,8 | 2,0 | 2,3 | 3,7 | 3,0 |
| May | 4,8 | 1,7 | 6,4 | 6,2 | 2,8 | 1,9 | 2,8 |
| Jun | 8,2 | 2,5 | 9,0 | 1,5 | $-0,8$ | 3,8 | 2,9 |
| Jul | 8,7 | 3,1 | 3,3 | 2,9 | 2,5 | 3,3 | 3,0 |
| Aug | 5,2 | 7,4 | 7,0 | 3,2 | 1,8 | 4,0 | 3,1 |
| Sep | 6,2 | 7,8 | 4,9 | $-0,1$ | 2,1 | 3,0 | 3,1 |
| Oct | 6,7 | 8,0 | 1,6 | 1,5 | 3,2 | 3,3 | 3,1 |
| Nov | 8,6 | 7,3 | 3,9 | 4,2 | 1,8 |  |  |
| Dec | 8,6 | 8,6 | 1,6 | 2,0 | 1,9 |  |  |
| Total | $\mathbf{5 , 7}$ | $\mathbf{6 , 3}$ | $\mathbf{4 , 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 1}$ |  |  |

Table 3 - Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices

| Month | R million |  |  |  | Month-on-month \% change |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5}$ |
| Jan | 58080 | 58976 | 61479 | 62239 | 0,1 | $-0,6$ | 0,0 | 0,3 |
| Feb | 57696 | 59882 | 60946 | 63122 | $-0,7$ | 1,5 | $-0,9$ | 1,4 |
| Mar | 57776 | 59635 | 60315 | 62985 | 0,1 | $-0,4$ | $-1,0$ | $-0,2$ |
| Apr | 58647 | 59745 | 60850 | 63034 | 1,5 | 0,2 | 0,9 | 0,1 |
| May | 57431 | 60455 | 61649 | 62928 | $-2,1$ | 1,2 | 1,3 | $-0,2$ |
| Jun | 58877 | 60517 | 60862 | 63139 | 2,5 | 0,1 | $-1,3$ | 0,3 |
| Jul | 58848 | 60077 | 61754 | 63246 | 0,0 | $-0,7$ | 1,5 | 0,2 |
| Aug | 59451 | 60672 | 61747 | 64451 | 1,0 | 1,0 | 0,0 | 1,9 |
| Sep | 59667 | 60423 | 61692 | 63337 | 0,4 | $-0,4$ | $-0,1$ | $-1,7$ |
| Oct | 59298 | 60400 | 61888 | 63491 | $-0,6$ | 0,0 | 0,3 | 0,2 |
| Nov | 59374 | 60862 | 62463 |  | 0,1 | 0,8 | 0,9 |  |
| Dec | 59344 | 61480 | 62069 |  | $-0,1$ | 1,0 | $-0,6$ |  |

Table 4 - Retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices by type of retailer (R million)

| Type of retailer | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 1/ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| General dealers | 24611 | 24547 | 23245 | 25348 | 25485 | 24014 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 5036 | 4567 | 4888 | 4908 | 4898 | 5275 |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 4185 | 4008 | 4402 | 4103 | 4111 | 4561 |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods | 12877 | 11816 | 12370 | 12306 | 11247 | 12776 |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment | 3054 | 3190 | 3278 | 3136 | 3153 | 3305 |
| Hardware, paint and glass | 4614 | 4688 | 4888 | 5013 | 4747 | 4937 |
| All other retailers | 7207 | 7271 | 7839 | 7815 | 7376 | 8207 |
| Total | 61584 | 60087 | 60910 | 62629 | 61017 | 63075 |

1/ Figures are preliminary.
Table 5 - Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices by type of retailer

| Type of retailer | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| General dealers | 2,5 | 3,4 | 3,2 | 5,3 | 3,4 | 3,5 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 7,4 | $-0,5$ | 0,9 | 1,5 | $-0,6$ |  |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and <br> toiletries | 2,6 | 1,0 | 3,1 | 1,7 | 3,2 |  |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods | 1,7 | 5,9 | 3,9 | 4,7 | 6,5 |  |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment | $-3,6$ | 8,4 | 0,1 | $-4,9$ | $-2,9$ | $-10,0$ |
| Hardware, paint and glass | 4,3 | 3,2 | 6,0 | 3,6 | 0,0 | $-0,1$ |
| All other retailers | $-3,0$ | 4,5 | 4,3 | 5,3 | 4,4 | 6,0 |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 , 9}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 8}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 3}$ | $\mathbf{4 , 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 5}$ |

Table 6 - Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2012 prices (percentage points)

| Type of retailer | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| General dealers | 1,0 | 1,4 | 1,2 | 2,1 | 1,4 | 1,3 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 0,6 | 0,0 | 0,1 | 0,1 | 0,0 | 0,3 |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and <br> toiletries | 0,2 | 0,1 | 0,2 | 0,1 | 0,2 | 0,6 |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods | 0,4 | 1,1 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 1,1 | 1,0 |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment | $-0,2$ | 0,4 | 0,0 | $-0,3$ | $-0,2$ | $-0,6$ |
| Hardware, paint and glass | 0,3 | 0,2 | 0,5 | 0,3 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| All other retailers | $-0,4$ | 0,5 | $\mathbf{0 , 5}$ | $\mathbf{0 , 7}$ | $\mathbf{0 , 5}$ | $\mathbf{0 , 8}$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 , 9}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 8}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 3}$ | $\mathbf{4 , 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 3}$ |

Table 7 - Retail trade sales at current prices (R million)

| Month | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5} \mathbf{1 /}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jan | 43003 | 45087 | 48564 | 52728 | 56263 | 61248 | 65436 |
| Feb | 42245 | 44023 | 47183 | 52402 | 56694 | 60264 | 65502 |
| Mar | 44650 | 47243 | 50426 | 56066 | 59943 | 63112 | 67756 |
| Apr | 43886 | 46427 | 51928 | 55020 | 58508 | 62764 | 67818 |
| May | 45327 | 47949 | 49955 | 55018 | 60794 | 65957 | 70082 |
| Jun | 44078 | 48124 | 50658 | 57200 | 60432 | 63333 | 68338 |
| Jul | 44916 | 49112 | 52080 | 55668 | 59543 | 64631 | 69268 |
| Aug | 44269 | 46746 | 51773 | 57250 | 61578 | 66419 | 71663 |
| Sep | 45034 | 48036 | 53528 | 58255 | 60654 | 65355 | 69840 |
| Oct | 46493 | 49829 | 55848 | 59084 | 62186 | 67500 | 72415 |
| Nov | 47813 | 52267 | 58094 | 62934 | 67938 | 72824 |  |
| Dec | 63536 | 69333 | 78202 | 82986 | 87442 | 93860 |  |
| Total | $\mathbf{5 5 5 2 5 0}$ | $594 \mathbf{1 7 6}$ | $\mathbf{6 4 8 2 3 9}$ | $\mathbf{7 0 4 6 1 7}$ | $\mathbf{7 5 1 9 7 5}$ | $\mathbf{8 0 7 2 6 7}$ |  |

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

Table 8 - Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices

| Month | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | $\begin{gathered} 2015 \\ \text { year-to-date } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jan | 4,8 | 7,7 | 8,6 | 6,7 | 8,9 | 6,8 | 6,8 |
| Feb | 4,2 | 7,2 | 11,1 | 8,2 | 6,3 | 8,7 | 7,8 |
| Mar | 5,8 | 6,7 | 11,2 | 6,9 | 5,3 | 7,4 | 7,6 |
| Apr | 5,8 | 11,8 | 6,0 | 6,3 | 7,3 | 8,1 | 7,7 |
| May | 5,8 | 4,2 | 10,1 | 10,5 | 8,5 | 6,3 | 7,4 |
| Jun | 9,2 | 5,3 | 12,9 | 5,7 | 4,8 | 7,9 | 7,5 |
| Jul | 9,3 | 6,0 | 6,9 | 7,0 | 8,5 | 7,2 | 7,5 |
| Aug | 5,6 | 10,8 | 10,6 | 7,6 | 7,9 | 7,9 | 7,5 |
| Sep | 6,7 | 11,4 | 8,8 | 4,1 | 7,8 | 6,9 | 7,4 |
| Oct | 7,2 | 12,1 | 5,8 | 5,3 | 8,5 | 7,3 | 7,4 |
| Nov | 9,3 | 11,1 | 8,3 | 8,0 | 7,2 |  |  |
| Dec | 9,1 | 12,8 | 6,1 | 5,4 | 7,3 |  |  |
| Total | 7,0 | 9,1 | 8,7 | 6,7 | 7,4 |  |  |

Table 9 - Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

| Month | R million |  |  |  | Month-on-month \% change |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5}$ |  |
| Jan | 56788 | 60331 | 65343 | 69489 | $-0,3$ | $-0,7$ | 0,9 | 0,5 |  |
| Feb | 55889 | 61650 | 65308 | 70819 | $-1,6$ | 2,2 | $-0,1$ |  |  |
| Mar | 57246 | 61553 | 65138 | 70748 | 2,4 | $-0,2$ | $-0,3$ | $-0,1$ |  |
| Apr | 58104 | 61680 | 66044 | 71289 | 1,5 | 0,2 | 1,4 | 0,8 |  |
| May | 56442 | 61910 | 66818 | 71138 | $-2,9$ | 0,4 | 1,2 | $-0,2$ |  |
| Jun | 58990 | 62989 | 66594 | 71823 | 4,5 | 1,7 | $-0,3$ | 1,0 |  |
| Jul | 58756 | 62456 | 67977 | 72412 | $-0,4$ | $-0,8$ | 2,1 | 0,8 |  |
| Aug | 59265 | 63062 | 67869 | 73193 | 0,9 | 1,0 | $-0,2$ | 1,1 |  |
| Sep | 60294 | 63338 | 68293 | 72995 | 1,7 | 0,4 | 0,6 | $-0,3$ |  |
| Oct | 59894 | 63372 | 68507 | 73257 | $-0,7$ | 0,1 | 0,3 | 0,4 |  |
| Nov | 60213 | 64171 | 69133 |  | 0,5 | 1,3 | 0,9 |  |  |
| Dec | 60749 | 64751 | 69134 |  | 0,9 | 0,9 | 0,0 |  |  |

Table 10 - Retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer (R million)

| Type of retailer | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 1/ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| General dealers | 28524 | 28426 | 26918 | 29556 | 29690 | 28120 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 6043 | 5471 | 5846 | 5904 | 5887 | 6367 |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 4808 | 4585 | 5045 | 4718 | 4732 | 5286 |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods | 14525 | 13352 | 14015 | 14017 | 12833 | 14628 |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment | 3094 | 3222 | 3308 | 3177 | 3185 | 3358 |
| Hardware, paint and glass | 5241 | 5335 | 5553 | 5695 | 5407 | 5613 |
| All other retailers | 7848 | 7947 | 8584 | 8596 | 8106 | 9044 |
| Total | 70082 | 68338 | 69268 | 71663 | 69840 | 72415 |

1/ Figures are preliminary.

Table 11 - Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer

| Type of retailer | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| General dealers | 7,4 | 8,1 | 7,3 | 9,5 | 7,6 | 7,9 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 14,0 | 5,6 | 7,0 | 7,6 | 5,3 | 8,7 |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and <br> toiletries | 9,7 | 6,6 | 8,3 | 7,2 | 8,5 | 13,8 |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods | 6,3 | 10,7 | 8,7 | 9,3 | 10,5 | 9,0 |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment | $-3,9$ | 7,4 | $-0,8$ | $-5,2$ | $-3,2$ | $-9,2$ |
| Hardware, paint and glass | 7,6 | 6,3 | 8,7 | 6,0 | 2,3 | 2,2 |
| All other retailers | $-1,4$ | 6,3 | 6,1 | 7,5 | 6,5 | 8,5 |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 , 3}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 9}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 2}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 9}$ | $\mathbf{6 , 9}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 3}$ |

Table 12 - Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices (percentage points)

| Type of retailer | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| General dealers | 3,0 | 3,4 | 2,8 | 3,9 | 3,2 | 3,0 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores | 1,1 | 0,5 | 0,6 | 0,6 | 0,5 | 0,8 |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and <br> toiletries | 0,6 | 0,4 | 0,6 | 0,5 | 0,6 | 1,0 |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods | 1,3 | 2,0 | 1,7 | 1,8 | 1,9 | 1,8 |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment | $-0,2$ | 0,3 | 0,0 | $-0,3$ | $-0,2$ | $-0,5$ |
| Hardware, paint and glass | 0,6 | 0,5 | 0,7 | 0,5 | 0,2 | 0,2 |
| All other retailers | $-0,2$ | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,9 | $\mathbf{0 , 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 0}$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 , 3}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 9}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 2}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 9}$ | $\mathbf{6 , 9}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 3}$ |

## Survey information

Introduction

## Purpose of the survey

## Scope of the survey

6 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for October 2015 was $80,2 \%$. The improved collection rate for September 2015 was $85,9 \%$.

| Statistical unit | $\mathbf{7}$ | The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the <br> enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and <br> directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities. The <br> statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| (SARS) administrative data. |  |  |

## Technical notes

## Survey methodology and design

## Class limits

## Sample weighting

Seasonal adjustment

The survey is conducted on a monthly basis. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 2519 enterprises from a population of 23580 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax, email and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.

2 A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2015 from Stats SA's business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of the Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point 3 below).

The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum:

$$
\mathrm{nh}=\mathrm{n} *(\mathrm{Nh} * \mathrm{Sh}) /\left[\Sigma\left(\mathrm{Ni}^{*} \mathrm{Si}\right)\right] .
$$

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum, but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 5,0\%.

3 The retail sampling frame is divided into four size groups. All large and medium enterprises (size group one and two) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size group three and four (small and very small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large and medium enterprises (size group one and two) is added to the weighted totals of size group three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Measure of size classes (Rand)

| Enterprise size | Size group | Lower limits | Upper limits |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: |
| Very small | 4 | 952459 | 8000000 |
| Small | 3 | 8000001 | 38000000 |
| Medium | 2 | 38000001 | 78000000 |
| Large | 1 | 78000001 |  |

For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of nonresponse in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures are consistent with international best practice.

Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X -12 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be recognised more clearly. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series, even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12ARIMA procedure for retail trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:
Click to Download Seasonal adjustment Retail Trade Sales May 2015
Trend cycle
Constant pric

Reliability of
estimates

## Month-on-month percentage change

## Year-on-year percentage change

## Contribution (percentage points)

6 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.

7 For January 2002 to December 2007 retail trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the consumer price index (CPI) for goods, excluding petrol and purchases of vehicles, for all urban areas to deflate total sales at current prices. From January 2008 onwards total retail trade sales at constant prices are obtained by adding up the deflated sales by type of retailer.

8 Retail trade sales at constant prices by type of retailer are obtained by deflating estimated sales at current prices by the relevant weighted price index. To obtain total retail trade sales at constant prices, estimates of the deflated sales for each type of retailer are aggregated.

9 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the retail industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

10 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.

11 The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.

12 The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.

13 The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change for any given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of retailer by its corresponding weight, divided by 100 . The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of retailer to total retail trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

## Glossary

| Enterprise | An enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly <br> controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Industry | An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic <br> activity. Industries are defined in the System of National Accounts (SNA) in the same <br> way as in the Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC), Fifth <br> Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993. |
| Retail trade | Retail trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and <br> products to the general public for household use. |
| Retailer |  |
|  | A retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50\% of its turnover from sales of goods to |
| the general public for household use. |  |

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